

Auburn News

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Friday, April 9, 2021

Newsstand: 75 cents

Becker College succumbs to economic impact of COVID

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Becker College has navigated countless challenges over its 237-year history, but the financial impacts of COVID-19 were too steep for the small school to overcome.

Last week, the Becker College Board of Trustees unanimously voted to cease academic programming at the end of the current academic year. The decision was reached after officials spent several months evaluating all options for potentially saving the college.

“This was a deeply painful decision for the Board to make – one that the college administration made every possible effort to stave off, but one we came to realize in recent weeks was unavoidable,” said Christine Cassidy, the chairperson of Becker’s Board of Trustees.

The school’s current spring semester will continue as planned, including ceremonies for graduating seniors on May 8. The college will also provide academic support and transitional services to students through Aug. 31.

After enduring a nightmarish year of remote learning and canceled events, Becker undergrads must now balance their academic responsibilities this semester with the need to find a new place to study in the fall. For many students, this will involve finding new apartments, jobs, internships, and extracurricular activities.

Becker officials are committed to assisting students as much as possible in their transition efforts. The college has made arrangements with



several area universities to provide admission to Becker students. Further details are available on the Becker website.

“Our commitment going forward is to do everything we can to ensure our students finish this year strongly positioned to continue their education, and that they and all our faculty and staff get access to the best education and employment opportunities available,” Cassidy added.

The college’s admissions staff will work with current students, as well as those accepted for the fall 2021 semester, on potential new admissions pathways. All tuition deposits will be refunded. The news of the college’s closure was equally distressing for staff members, many of whom have called Becker home for years.

“Becker will assist

departing faculty and staff in finding new career opportunities after their employment with the college ends,” read a statement released by the college.

Becker operates campuses in Leicester and Worcester. Established in 1784 as Leicester Academy, the campus at the town center eventually merged with Becker’s Business College in 1887. Both campuses are deeply stitched into the academic and cultural fabrics of their communities.

Although the pandem-

ic drove the final nails into Becker’s coffin, school officials were already grappling with several challenges long before COVID-19 ravaged colleges nationwide. As a small, tuition-dependent institution, Becker faced mounting adversity in recent years with declining enrollments and rising costs.

When COVID-19 struck in March 2020, college officials struggled with the added challenge of maintaining physical campus operations while transitioning to online education. A year later, as

Becker moved to reopen on-campus housing and classrooms, many residential students chose to become permanent commuters or engage in remote learning from home due to the continuing COVID-19 crisis. The prolonged absence of on-campus residents exacerbated the college’s financial situation.

“Ultimately, the impacts of COVID-19 turned what was a very challenging situation into an unsustainable situation,” said Becker College President Nancy Crimmin.

Rather than risk placing students and staff into an untenable position next year, officials decided to close the school at a time when students’ academic transitions could be best managed.

“We pushed ourselves to develop scenarios in which Becker remained open for another year and beyond,” Cassidy said. “However, those scenarios included more debt, selling assets, and further cutting operations. Guided by the advice of our auditors and other expert consultants, we concluded that this would be irresponsible and unsustainable over time. As devastating as closing this 237-year-old institution is, we want this closure process to be one that conveys the maximum possible respect and support for everyone whose lives and careers we know it will affect.”

Becker’s trustees remain in close communication with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, as well as the college’s accreditation agencies.

To help answer questions from students, their families, and faculty members, the college has developed a specialized website. It includes information on applying to other schools, transferring credits, and obtaining financial aid.

Turn To **BECKER** page **A14**

QCC students encourage community to get vaccinated

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is taking to the airwaves to deliver an important message to students and the community-at-large: Get vaccinated.

The College has put together an informational website, with a series of public service videos from QCC students in English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Vietnamese, and Albanian. The videos are designed to engage, inform and encourage people to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

In addition to the videos, the Web site includes information about the vaccine in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as vaccination locations and eligibility phases.

“These public service announcements are designed to help increase the dissemination of accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines. Let’s all get vaccinated as soon as we are eligible. The vaccines have been shown to be highly effective, and the faster we get vaccinated when eligible, the more we can begin to do some of the things we did prior to the pandemic,” said President Luis. G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

To learn more about the vaccine and clinic locations visit www.QCC.edu/C19VAXFACTS

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Earth Day roadside clean-up set for April 24

Charlton residents are invited to help clean up the town for Earth Day! To sign-up for a road, or portion of road, in advance, residents may register online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/238/Earth-Day-Committee>. People can also sign-up for a road in person the day of the event behind Town Hall. The Earth Day Committee will be distributing yellow trash bags beginning at 8 a.m. behind Town Hall.

Safety first! Please take care when picking up the roads. Use gloves to protect yourself from sharp objects. Wear bright clothing or a safety vest so drivers can see you easily. You may want to set up cones to caution drivers in higher speed areas. Never open containers of unknown substances. Contact the Police to dispose of any needles or syringes – do not touch or place in bags with other refuse.

We have some great incentives from our sponsors:

Free T-shirt to the first 100 people – courtesy of Millennium Power! Our theme this year is “Earth is Home to All” and the winning design is from Charlton fifth-grader Ella Wall.

Raffle prizes! Everyone who picks up trash may put their name into a raffle for small prizes -- gift cards from our local sponsors: Ted’s Package Store, Milk & Sugar, Stonehenge Gardens, McDonald’s, Cornerstone Bank, Tree House Brewing, Energy Monster. Names will be drawn at the end of the clean-up and winners notified by phone.

Reusable shopping bag, courtesy of Cornerstone Bank, containing wildflower seeds and educational information from local environmental organizations.

Gloves, trash-grabber, bottled water and a snack -- while supplies last -- funded in part by a grant from The Last Green Valley.

Dumpster donated by Casella Waste. Show your support for the Earth and for the Town! Pitch in to pick-up litter and clean our roads and fill that dumpster!

Shepherd Hill NHS donates paper goods to local pantires

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARTON – Each month, the Shepherd Hill Regional High School National Honor Society works to give back to their local community through service projects in their school, and for March, the student group put together an effort that would not only help two local organizations but also provide a spirit of unity and competition among the schools in Dudley and Charlton.

Called the “Battle of the Borders,” the fundraiser challenges the Charlton and Dudley schools as well as Shepherd Hill, the district’s shared high school, to collect paper goods to support the CHIP In food pantry in Charlton and the Webster-Dudley Food Share, both significant resources providing access to food and personal care



Courtesy Photo

Shepherd Hill National Honor Society members drop off paper goods to CHIP In Food Pantry in Charlton.

Turn To **NHS** page **A14**



Worcester State athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society

WORCESTER — Thirty-seven Worcester State University student-athletes have earned induction into Chi Alpha Sigma, the student-athlete honor society.

The group joins 24 inductees from a year ago who are still active on Lancer rosters, bringing Worcester State's Chi Alpha Sigma total to 61 student-athletes. The complete list of Worcester State inductees can be found below.

To be eligible for the honor society, student-athletes of junior or senior status must achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.40. Graduating Chi Alpha Sigma inductees will receive black and gold cords to be worn at Commencement.

"In Worcester State's seventh year of membership in Chi Alpha Sigma, it is exciting to continue to honor our student-athletes' academic achievements," said Kelly Downs, coordinator of student-athlete support services. "Our student-athletes take pride in their academics and are excited to represent our department at Commencement by wearing their athletic honor society cords."

"These student-athletes have shown an incredible commitment to academics in their time at Worcester State," said Director of Athletics Michael Mudd. "They shine not only on the field, court, track, and ice, but also in the classroom, and are true role models on our campus."

For more information on Chi Alpha Sigma, please visit their website at chialphasigma.org.

Inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma in 2020

Dominique Alves (Ludlow, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
Lauren Arbec (Fairhaven, Mass.) - Women's Lacrosse
Parker Bigelow (Leominster, Mass.) - Baseball
Alexa Bobbin (Charlestown, R.I.) - Field Hockey
Mark Clemente (Holden, Mass.) - Men's Golf
Emma Collings (Marion, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
Tim Drevitch (Oxford, N.J.) - Men's Ice Hockey
Sarah Duff (Warren, Mass.) - Field

Hockey
Lauren Fleming (Leominster, Mass.) - Field Hockey
Maddie Fong (Norton, Mass.) - Women's Soccer
Pat Galvin (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Baseball
Kyle Hayter (Helena, Mont.) - Men's Ice Hockey
Rachel Jorge (Dartmouth, Mass.) - Women's Track & Field
Madison Kuzio (Franklin, Mass.) - Women's Volleyball
Matthew Manning (Novi, Mich.) - Men's Ice Hockey
Bernice Mensah (Worcester, Mass.) - Women's Track & Field
Monika Mularski (Auburn, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
Tayla O'Leary (Salem, Mass.) - Women's Soccer
Jake Poitras (Harwich, Mass.) - Men's Golf
Zack Poitras (Webster, Mass.) - Men's Track & Field
Shaylee Puleo (Tewksbury, Mass.) - Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
Kyra Siano (North Attleboro, Mass.) - Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
Ally Tocman (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Softball
Hoang Vo (Worcester, Mass.) - Men's Track & Field

2021 Chi Alpha Sigma Inductees
Will Ahearn (Charlestown, Mass.) - Men's Ice Hockey
Victoria Alexander (Worcester, Mass.) - Softball
Ashley Barratt (North Attleborough, Mass.) - Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
Rachel Bigelow (Westborough, Mass.) - Softball
Sarah Blomgren (Lunenburg, Mass.) - Women's Basketball
Charles Bray (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Men's Track & Field
Dariel Canela (Peabody, Mass.) - Men's Track & Field
Mike Chaves Jr. (Hudson, Mass.) - Baseball
Kasey Clark (Dudley, Mass.) - Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
Julia Collins (Shrewsbury, Mass.) -

Field Hockey
Aidan Conlon (Lowell, Mass.) - Men's Ice Hockey
Kyle Cravatis (Beverly, Mass.) - Baseball
Sean Devin (Lynn, Mass.) - Baseball
Apphia Donoghue (Rowley, Mass.) - Women's Soccer
Hannah Foster (Worcester, Mass.) - Women's Soccer
Drew Fottler (Chelmsford, Mass.) - Men's Cross Country and Track & Field
Coley Hayes (Norwood, Mass.) - Field Hockey
Lincoln Henry (Kingston, Jamaica) - Men's Soccer
Kylie Hill (Lunenburg, Mass.) - Women's Lacrosse
Denise Hoxha (Worcester, Mass.) - Women's Volleyball
Ryan James (Katy, Texas) - Men's Ice Hockey
Calli Korbey (Hopkinton, Mass.) - Women's Basketball
Alyson Langhorst (Natick, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
Gigi LeMay (Grafton, Mass.) - Women's Basketball and Women's Golf
Ann Maher (Mansfield, Mass.) - Field Hockey
Charlotte Mullane (Sterling, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
Cam Neary (Mansfield, Mass.) - Men's Golf
Hannah Nolan (Pepperell, Mass.) - Women's Lacrosse
Brendan O'Shea (Methuen, Mass.) - Baseball
Alexander Papageorgiou (Tewksbury, Mass.) - Men's Soccer
Emma Poplawski (Rowe, Mass.) - Women's Basketball
Alessandro Romeo (Worcester, Mass.) - Men's Soccer
Max Roth (Chicago, Ill.) - Men's Ice Hockey
Gunther Stange (Niles, Ill.) - Men's Ice Hockey
Logan Sylvester (Swansea, Mass.) - Football
Leelle Tyler (Longmeadow, Mass.) - Women's Volleyball
Sarah Ward (Townsend, Mass.) - Women's Volleyball



ACCURACY WATCH

The Auburn News is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

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Cornerstone Bank to award \$2,000 scholarships

SOUTHBIDGE—Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, will be awarding 16 \$2,000 scholarships to students in the area it serves. Cornerstone Bank is hoping to help 2021 high school graduates throughout their community pursue higher education and foster advancement in the fields of business and finance. The sixteen scholarships will be awarded to the students who best demonstrate achievement in academics, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

"Making sure the future leaders of America get a great education is so important to us at Cornerstone Bank," said CEO Todd Tallman. "We are excited to be able to help students achieve their dreams every year to go into the business or finance industries. Access to a good education can be difficult for many students, especially with how difficult this past year has been, so we hope the help we are able to provide to this group of graduates helps them to reach their goals."

To apply for a scholarship, the student must:

Be a 2021 high school graduate
Reside within 10 miles of a Cornerstone Bank branch or office

Anticipate being a full-time student at an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education

Anticipate studying in a business or financial field

Demonstrate achievement and high standards in academics, extracurricular activities, and community involvement

Submit an official transcript and GPA from their guidance office

In addition, the student must choose one of the following prompts and submit a one-page typed essay:

1. Are there any challenges you have had to overcome in your high school career?
- OR
2. What are your goals for the future, and how will this scholarship assist you in meeting them?

Applications must be submitted or postmarked to Cornerstone Bank by April 5. Please send all applications to scholarships@cornerstonebank.com, or mail to Cornerstone Bank Scholarship Committee: P.O. Box 370, Southbridge, MA, 01550. Selected recipients will be announced by the week of May 24. Scholarship funds will be disbursed to the student after successful completion of the first semester, and upon presentation of an official copy of the first semester transcript and second semester bill.

For more information, and to download the application form, please visit <https://cornerstonebank.com/scholarships/>.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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Fattman, Gobi among senators asking for state testing delay

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

BOSTON —Ryan Fattman and Anne Gobi have joined fellow senators in urging Gov. Charlie Baker and State Commissioner of Education Jeffrey Riley to delay state testing in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Senators Fattman and Gobi were among 29 state senators that signed a letter on March 31 urging the delay of the MCAS and ACCESS testing until the fall and utilizing any

alternate readily available testing program. The senators argue that the MCAS test is “time consuming” and does not give rapid or immediately usable results and instead would like the state to issue more immediately usable testing that wouldn’t interfere with instruction.

“We share your interest in obtaining actionable benchmark around student learning loss. Yet we also concur with organizations representing teachers and administrators as well as civil

rights organizations and the student and aren’t representatives on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education who believe that standardized testing this spring will produce no valid or actionable information, waste valuable learning time, and harm children,” the letter reads. “Standardized testing this spring will not produce any valid information on student learning except for what we already know – many children have lost learning time. Results can-

not be compared in any valid way with results from previous and future years.”

The letter also quotes the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent who have also moved for state testing to be changed for 2021 citing the potential for “skewed results” from communities significantly impacted by the pandemic and that the National Assessment of Education Progress has already taken steps to postpone their test in 2021.

Senators further argue that the \$30 million spend for the MCAS administration would be a waste of money better spent on social emotional supports and other priorities. They further stress that results wouldn’t be available until mid-fall after the start of the new school year, noting “Some students will have attended summer school or had other opportunities; their results from the spring testing will suggest they need remediation that they actually no longer need. Other students will

have experienced a ‘summer slide,’ their results will also be useless.”

Senators concluded their letter noting the stress and added hours of work the tests would create for administrators and teacher as well as students asking the commissioner and governor to consider an exam that would limit testing time and give school more rapid information necessary to help students succeed in a time where the pandemic has severely impacted their learning time.

Cornerstone Bank contributes to Worcester Bravehearts charitable programs

SOUTHBIDGE — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, has made a \$10,000 contribution to the Worcester Bravehearts baseball team to help promote the love of reading and writing in local youth. This partnership will fund both the Ticket to

Read and Pen Pal Club programs, initiatives that reward children who read a set number of books or exchange notes with seniors, with prizes and experiences.

“Helping to fund these critical programs and give back to our community is always rewarding, but even more so

given how education has changed so much for students this year,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We thank the Bravehearts’ organization for having the foresight to infuse fun into reading and writing, and for allowing us the opportunity to partner with them on this.”

The Ticket to Read Program offers students incentives for reading in the form of baseball game tickets, merchandise and even a class field trip by reading 10 books a month. Additionally, the

classroom that reads the most books over the year will win a free field trip to a Bravehearts baseball game. Each year, more than 30 schools in the Central Massachusetts area and 6,000 students participate in the program.

The Pen Pal Club encourages students to increase the amount of time they spend reading and writing. The program pairs a local middle school student with a senior citizen and the two write each other monthly letters throughout the school year. Then, during summer break, the pen pals have the opportunity to meet one another

and enjoy a Bravehearts game together.

Cornerstone Bank is proud to support these community initiatives and help foster a love of reading and writing in children across the Central Massachusetts area. To learn more about Cornerstone Bank and its charitable donations, visit cornerstonebank.com.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer prom-

Karen Maloney-Hagel earns Ameriprise Client Experience Award

WORCESTER — Karen Maloney-Hagel, CRPC®, CLTC®, CDFA® a Private Wealth Advisor with Ameriprise Financial has earned the 2020 Ameriprise Client Experience Award.

This award was given to Karen Maloney-Hagel because her ability to consistently deliver personalized, goal-based advice and

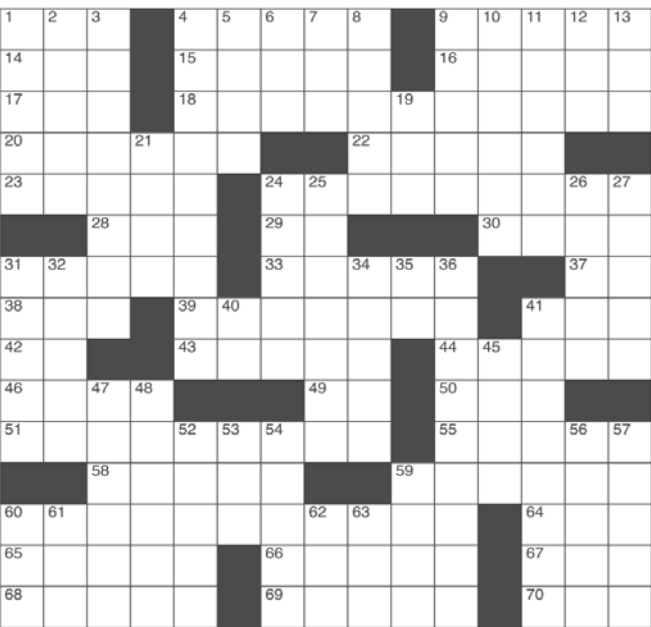
exceptional client service. Award recipients earned an overall client satisfaction rating equal to or greater than 4.9 out of 5.0* and maintained stellar business results. The award represents an elite group of Ameriprise advisors recognized as leaders for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of their clients. Less than 15% percent of Ameriprise practices have earned this distinct honor.

As a Private Wealth Advisor, Karen Maloney-Hagel provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and is delivered in one-on-one relationships with her clients. For more information, please contact Karen Maloney-Hagel at 508-796-0083 or visit the Ameriprise office at 324 Grove St., Worcester.

About Ameriprise Financial

At Ameriprise Financial, we have been helping people feel confident about their financial future for more than 125 years. With a network of approximately 10,000 financial advisors and extensive asset management, advisory and insurance capabilities, we have the strength and expertise to serve the full range of consumer financial needs. For more information, visit ameriprise.com.

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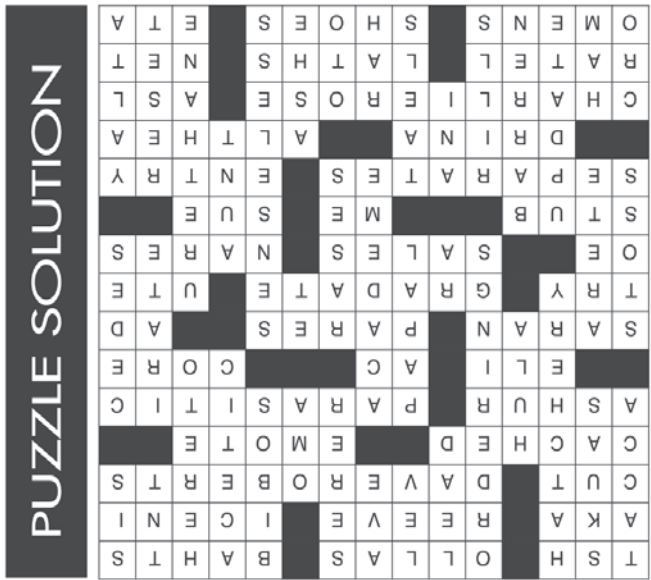


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 4. Ceramic jars
- 9. Monetary units
- 14. Alias
- 15. “Superman” actor
- 16. Britonic tribe
- 17. Shorten
- 18. LA Dodgers manager
- 20. Hoarded
- 22. Theatrically portray
- 23. Noah’s grandson
- 24. Dependent
- 28. Peyton’s little brother
- 29. Cools the house
- 30. Principle part of
- 31. Type of wrap
- 33. Peels
- 37. Commercial
- 38. Make an attempt
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. U. Utah athlete
- 42. Old English
- 43. Trade
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Ticket seller __Hub
- 49. Of I
- 50. Institute legal proceedings against
- 51. Takes apart
- 55. Doorway
- 58. Long int’l river
- 59. Trailblazing athlete Gibson
- 60. Former CBS News host
- 64. Sign language
- 65. Badgerlike mammal
- 66. Thin strips of wood
- 67. Brooklyn hoopster
- 68. Portents of good or evil
- 69. Footwear
- 70. When you think you’ll arrive

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Batflower genus
- 2. Predatory seabirds
- 3. Fish farm
- 4. Arrangements
- 5. Go in advance of others
- 6. Bulgarian monetary unit
- 7. “__ Maria”
- 8. W. African ethnoreligious group
- 9. Wild Asian oxen genus
- 10. Vinegary
- 11. To this
- 12. Explosive
- 13. Female sibling
- 19. Orlando museum (abbr.)
- 21. Type of hoop
- 24. About Holy Father
- 25. Academic environment
- 26. Extremely angry
- 27. Surrenders
- 31. Swiss mountain pass
- 32. Sharp mountain ridge
- 34. Erases
- 35. Spielberg’s alien
- 36. Absurd
- 40. Dorm worker
- 41. Used to make pesticides
- 45. The sister of your father or mother
- 47. A way to let know
- 48. Can’t produce much vegetation
- 52. Small streams
- 53. Folk singer DiFranco
- 54. Weights
- 56. Start over
- 57. Black Sea resort city
- 59. Wimbledon champ
- 60. Corporate executive (abbr.)
- 61. Unskilled actor who overacts
- 62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 63. Of or relating to ears



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REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$525,000, 58 Pakachoag St, J Jill Development LLC, to Johnson, Corey A, and Terkowitz, Jennifer L.

\$415,000, 41 Elm St, Price, Kevin P, and Kelly, Edward L, to Kelly, Michael L, and Kelly, Charissa.

\$380,000, 36 Loring St, Anderson Judith A Est, and Desy, Joan M, to Bello, Francis, and Harris, Veronica.

\$180,000, 40 Waterman Rd, Laliberte, Teresa A, to Nguyen, Rosa.

\$101,325, 64 Harrison Ave, Deutsche Bk Natl TCo Tr, to Keenan-Ross, James.

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Open Sky announces Presenting Sponsor and awardees for Safe Homes Gala

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services has announced that the Gala and People of Courage Awards in support of Safe Homes will be held virtually on Friday, April 9 from 6-7 p.m.

Safe Homes is an Open Sky program providing a Drop-in Center and peer-led services and supports for LGBTQIA+ youth ages 14-23 in Central Massachusetts. Safe Homes offers leadership development, educational and social programming, connections to resources and mental health counseling at no cost to participants. The program is supported in part by grants from The United Way of Central Massachusetts, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and others.

According to Ken Bates, President and CEO at Open Sky, the isolation and uncertainty of the past year has had a profound effect on LGBTQIA+ youth. “I am pleased to say that throughout the pandemic, Safe Homes has supported youth through virtual drop-ins, food deliveries, connections to community resources and free counseling.”

The Safe Homes Gala will include an online silent auction, fund-a-need, messages from celebrities, special guests, and the presentation of the People of Courage Awards and the Safe Homes Partnership Awards. The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation

is the Presenting Sponsor for the event.

“Safe Homes plays a critical role in helping youth feel nurtured and validated in all aspects of their identities,” said Kimberly Salmon, assistant vice president, community relations at The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. “We’re proud to partner with Safe Homes as it works to provide important support services and a safe space for LGBTQIA+ youth in our community and their allies.”

Other leadership sponsors include 401kQuote.com, Arbor Associates, Fallon Health and Revelation Productions.

There are a variety of ticket options available including a free registration option. Attendees can register at openskycs.org/gala.

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Worcester Together- A partnership of United Way of Central Mass and Greater Worcester Community Foundation in collaboration with the City of Worcester.

For more information on Safe Homes, or to register or to sponsor, visit openskycs.org/gala or email safe-homesgala@openskycs.org.

About Open Sky Community Services
Open Sky Community Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky Community Services has more than 1,100 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$83 million with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

School budget proposal calls for 2.8 percent increase

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee has pushed forward a starting number for its Fiscal Year 2022 budget which sees an increase in not only the total spending plan, but the assessments on the two district towns as well.

The School Committee previously approved the budget proposal during a meeting on March 10 where all but one absent member voted to push the budget forward to the member towns of Dudley and Charlton. The spending plan was discussed again two weeks later on March 24, during a public hearing where there was no input from either the committee or citizens but Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu took the time to break down the proposed increase and where the bulk of the new expenses are coming from.

“This is a \$1.464 million increase from fiscal year ’21, or a 2.8 percent increase. The budget increase is accounted for primarily through increases in expenses as it relates to health insurance, some changes in state assessments to the district, as well as a couple of new requested positions such as an additional nurse for the middle schools, an occupational therapist to serve district wide and a facilities director for district wide,” Mathieu said.

The increase brings the proposed budget to \$52,571,801 and includes increased assessments to both Charlton and Dudley with Charlton being assessed \$14,789,261 and Dudley assessed \$9,890,252. Mathieu said these numbers are due to several factors.

“There are two primary reasons for that besides the budgetary increase. The first is the governor’s budget estimate for regional transportation is not in our favor and it’s because Fiscal

Year 2020 actual numbers were used, and we’ve communicated with Sen. Gobi, and we hope these numbers will be updated in the House and Senate budget. It sounds like there’s recognition of providing a clearer and more accurate estimate for these numbers in the next round of projections,” Mathieu said. “The other was the use by the district last year of \$373,000 in one-time revenues to reach the Fiscal Year 2021 assessment requests of our assessment communities. We wanted to make sure that we were able to have a budget approved at the May town meeting, postponed to June, and this was the appropriate path forward at that point in time - We’ll certainly continue to work with the town to reach mutually agreeable numbers.”

The committee plans to continue to adjust the budget numbers based on requests and negotiations with Charlton and Dudley officials. The numbers will require approval from town meetings in both communities in order to be set for the new fiscal year.

Webster Public School Department



Cafeteria Worker, Park Ave - 2 Positions

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Rate: \$14.25/hr.

*these 2 positions will primarily deliver meals to classrooms
Start Date: ASAP

Breakfast in the Classroom Worker, Park Ave - 1 Position

Schedule: M-F 7:30-10:30 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

Cafeteria Worker, Webster Middle School - 1 Position

Schedule: M-F 8:00-11:00 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

*this position is primarily a kitchen prep position

Cafeteria Worker, Bartlett High School - 1 Position

Schedule: M-F 9:30-12:30 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

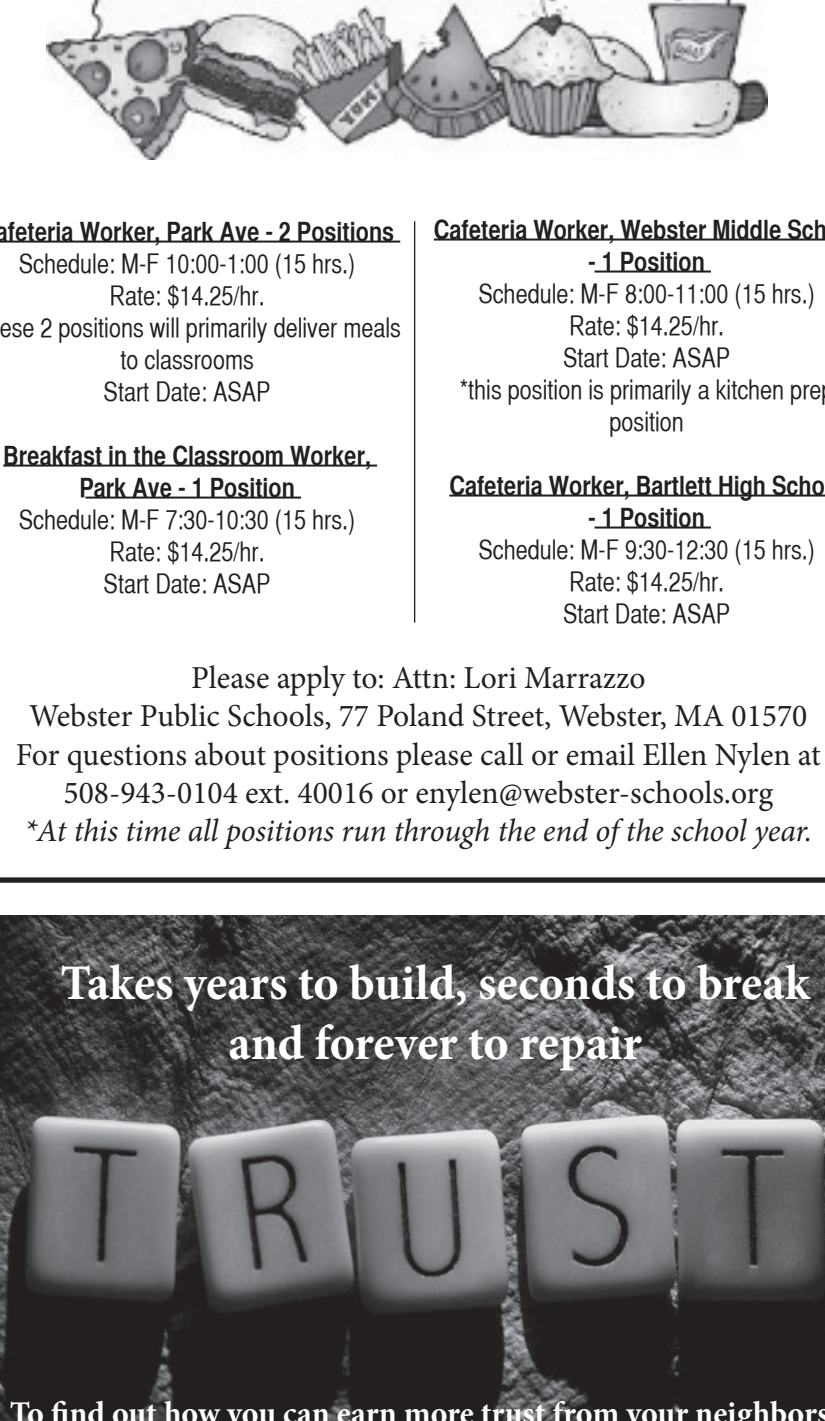
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For questions about positions please call or email Ellen Nylen at 508-943-0104 ext. 40016 or enlyen@webster-schools.org

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Friday's Child



Maleki
Age 15

Hi! My name is Maleki
and I love comics!

Maleki is an engaging teenage boy of African American descent. While he enjoys spending time by himself, if he is interested in a conversation or activity, he will happily engage with others. He is very passionate about certain subjects, particularly all things related to Marvel and DC comics. Maleki loves to talk about his favorite superheroes and what their powers are. He also enjoys music therapy and trying to make sounds on the instruments. Maleki is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum

Disorder and developmental delays.

Maleki attends a collaborative school where he receives supports to ensure that his emotional, social, and educational needs are met. Maleki has no behavioral problems at school or in the program where he lives. He gets along well with peers, staff, and teachers.

Maleki is legally freed for adoption. His social worker is hoping to match him with a family who is committed to advocating for him throughout his life. He will do well in a family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home.

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The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.ma-reinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

	8		9	7	4		5	
	9				2	8		
4	2				5			
		7	8		3			
			6					
		5						8
7		2		1				6
1			5					4

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

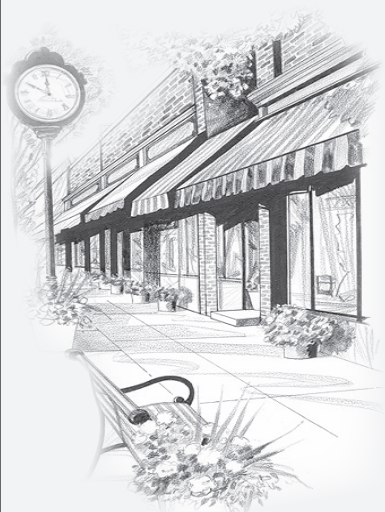
Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	8	6	9	7	4	1	5	3
3	9	4	1	5	2	8	6	7
5	7	1	3	8	6	4	2	9
4	2	3	7	9	5	6	8	1
6	1	7	8	2	3	9	4	5
8	5	9	6	4	1	7	3	2
9	4	5	2	6	7	3	1	8
7	3	2	4	1	8	5	9	6
1	6	8	5	3	9	2	7	4

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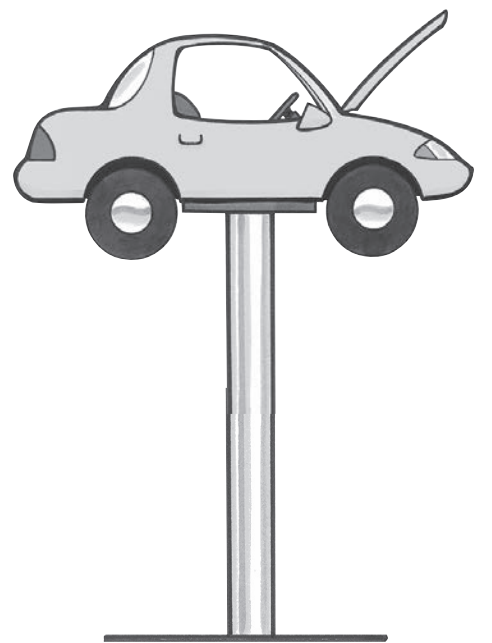
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The power of positivity

Every day, we wake up with the best intentions — or we like to think that most of us do. Each new day brings with it specific challenges. Many times, those challenges come by way of a misunderstanding or a shifted perspective. We have come to realize, long ago, that often there is more to a story than we can see at its surface. Just being aware of that one simple fact, can change the way a situation is viewed. Often times it’s easier said than done, however the more we choose to remain optimistic the better. What might seem catastrophic in the moment is usually nothing more than a small frustration that has an easy fix and will pass. A wise man once said, ‘Don’t sweat the small stuff, and it’s all small stuff.’

This isn’t to negate the fact that larger issues do surface and take some time to sort out, however we need to remind ourselves that we are all surrounded by well intended, intelligent people. People who are willing to be helpful, generous, rational and kind through productive conversations will always find the pot of gold in any situation.

Remembering to check a kneejerk reaction before gathering all of the facts is crucial to your ability to remain optimistic. Again, this is not always easy, but once mastered can change everything.

Believe it or not, optimism is a choice and offers surprising benefits. Choosing to look on the bright side of life can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke while also extending your life.

One study revealed that individuals who spent five minutes a day thinking positive thoughts about their future increased their ability to be optimistic in just two weeks. Before turning in at night, list five things that you are grateful for and five things that you are looking forward to. Every time you stop at a traffic light, tell yourself something that you like about yourself. Keeping pessimists in your life at a distance is always a good idea.

When a negative thought does creep through your mind, that’s ok. Recognize it, and decide how realistic it actually is. To offset those thoughts, try spreading positivity yourself. While at work, offer a co-worker an ‘atta boy’ or ‘atta girl’ for a job well done. If your child has been hard at work on a school project, tell them how proud you are. Send a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on your life. When you bestow positivity on others, it has a lasting effect on your own life.

One way to practice being more optimistic is to flip every negative thought with a positive one despite how creative you need to get. For example, if you’re thinking ‘I’m going to be late for dinner and I don’t feel like cooking’ you can flip that by reminding yourself about the wonders of the microwave and take out. If a rainy day has you feeling groggy, remind yourself that those are the best days to read all day, catch up on Netflix and not feel guilty about missing all of that sunshine.

A quote from Rodolfo Costa, “Learn to adapt. Things change, circumstances change. Adjust yourself and your efforts to what it is presented to you so you can respond accordingly. Never see change as a threat, because it can be an opportunity to learn, to grow, evolve and become a better person.”

Car Care and Tips

Spring has spring, and few simple pleasures compare to cruising down the highway with the fresh springtime breeze blowing in the open window. But do you really know how much that joyride is costing you in gas? And are you sure your tires are giving you your money’s worth? For answers to these questions, along with some springtime car washing tips, read on!

Do you love highway driving with the wind whipping at your hair? If so, it’s a pleasure you’ll pay for. Did you know driving with your windows all the way down at higher speeds, will waste 10 percent more gallons of gas than driving with them closed? The drag will cost you more in fuel, so avoid cranking the windows completely until you’re at a slower pace.

If your car has cruise control feature, use it. Not only will you give your accelerating foot a rest, you’ll save money too! Using cruise control will save you 5 to 10 percent of a gallon of gas on long trips!

Want to conserve more gas? Just use the overdrive shift as soon as your speed is high enough. It also acts as a fuel saver.

Keeping tires properly inflated and aligned equals gas savings. Periodic wheel alignments and keeping tires inflated to the maximum recommended pressure really does improve your gas mileage, according to experts.

According to a major tire company approximately one third of all tires on the road are under inflated.. These tires not only wear out quicker and but they are more at risk for a blow out. Since tires lose air at a rate of about a pound a month, it pays to periodically check your tires

Not sure how to rotate your tires? According to the experts, radial tires can be crossed from side



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

to side in the rotation pattern. Bias ply tires should never be rotated from side to side, only front to back.

Confused when it comes to using your car air conditioner efficiently? Memorize this mantra: In town, turn it down; going fast, let it blast! According to cooling experts, when traveling 45 mph or less, you should open the windows or vents to create a steady airflow that’ll give your car a cool boost. When going faster than 45 mph, you should crank up the a/c instead. This method avoids the drag generated when windows are left open during high-speed travel.

Believe it or not, tires driven at 70 m.p.h. wear out almost twice as fast as cars that go 55 mph. So it really does pay to slow down!

Here are some tips for the do it yourself car washer: Experts claim you should wash your car every ten days, and especially after it rains or snows. Waxing is recommended only every six months.

From Consumer Reports: When rinsing, use a hose without a nozzle and let the water flow over the car from top to bottom. This creates a sheeting action that helps minimize pooling of water.

Did you know more frequent waxes are needed if your car is red, black or white? The reason for this is because these colors are more susceptible to acid rain and UV rays. And one of the most critical times to wash your vehicle is immediately after a rainfall. Even after the lightest rain shower, the water evapo-

rates, but the acid remains on the vehicle’s finish.

When you wash your car, be sure to use a separate sponge to clean the wheels and tires. They may be coated with sand, brake dust, and other debris that could mar the car’s finish.

Never wash your car when the body is hot, such as immediately after driving it or after it has been parked in direct sunlight for a while. Heat speeds the drying of soap and water, making washing more difficult and increasing the chances that spots or deposits will form.

If you need to get all the water off the car, try using your leaf blower. It will blast water from even the tiniest crevices.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Sports cards are breaking records

In my last column, I reported on the Tom Brady rookie card that was nearing \$2 million in an online auction. The bidding ended on April 2, with the rare card selling for \$2.2 million. While there aren’t many cards worth millions of dollars, auction prices for cards overall have skyrocketed during the pandemic. Many cards have more than doubled or tripled in value over the past year.

A February Chicago Tribune article cites multiple reasons for the current sports card boom. “Some industry analysts see pandemic stay-at-home boredom as fueling a resurgence of interest, as parents rediscover the hobby and share it with their children,” according to the Tribune. They also report, “investors who saw big returns on the stock market last year also have begun to buy into trading cards as an alternative to equities, pumping up prices for the cardboard commodity.”

Prices in almost every type of sports card and non-sports card category are seeing strong results. An unopened 1973 Topps wax pack of cards recently sold for \$780. A high grade 1976 Topps Walter Payton Rookie Card #148 went for \$800. An average grade tobacco card of Ty Cobb recently brought \$3,250. Despite being in altered condition, a 1951 Bowman Mickey Mantle Rookie still sold for \$7,100.

PSA (Professional Sports Authenticator) is the most popular



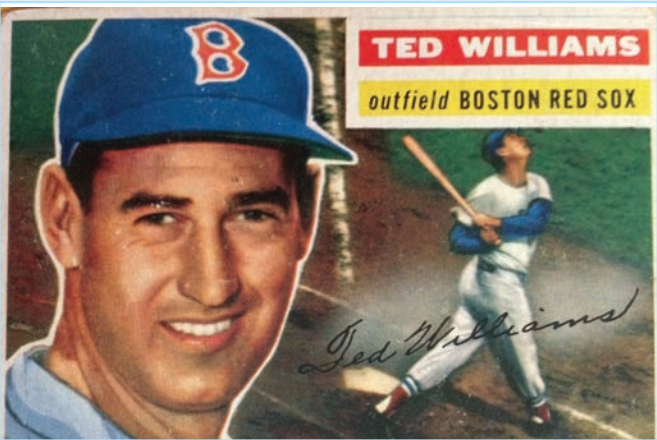
ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

1990s Pokémon hologram cards in near perfect condition can bring six figure sums.

So, will card prices continue to increase? There is no way to say for sure, but the late 1980s and early 1990s saw a card boom similar to what we are experiencing today. To keep up with the demand during that time, companies such as Topps, Fleer and Upper Deck drastically increased production. The demand dried up in the early 1990s. Many people who bought those cards as an investment are still sitting on boxes of nearly worthless cards. It may be the right time to sell your cards now before values decline again.

We will soon be offering an online auction of a large collection of sports and non-sports cards from a Holliston, Mass. estate. Our next session of model railroad trains, die-cast cars, model kits and other toys will also soon be running online. Our multi-estate with jewelry, coins, paintings, more sports cards, and a wide variety of other items takes place in May. Keep watching www.centralmassauctions.com for details on all of these events or use the email signup form on our homepage to be notified of all upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com



Put tax-smart investing moves to work



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

We’re now well into what’s known as “Tax Season.” If your income in 2020 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, your tax return will reflect it. However, if your earnings were fairly normal last year, you might look at your tax situation and wonder how you could improve it in 2022. One area to look at may be your investment-related taxes.

To help control these taxes, consider these moves:

Take full advantage of tax-deferred investments

As an investor, one of the best moves you can make is to consider contributing as much as you can afford to your tax-deferred accounts – your traditional IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan – every year. If you

Look for tax-free opportunities

Interest from municipal bonds typically is exempt from federal income tax, and, in some cases, from state and local income tax, too. (Some municipal bonds, however, may be subject to the alternative minimum tax.) And if you qualify to contribute to a Roth IRA – eligibility is generally based on income – your earnings can be withdrawn tax-free, provided you’ve had your account for at least five years, and you don’t start taking withdrawals until you’re at least 59 and a half. Your employer may also offer a Roth 401(k), which can provide tax-free withdrawals. Keep in mind, though, that you contribute after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA and 401(k), unlike a traditional IRA and 401(k), in which your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars.

Be a “buy and hold” investor

Your 401(k) and IRA are designed to be long-term investments, and you may face disincentives in the form of taxes and penalties if you tap into them before you reach 59 and a half. So, just by investing in these retirement accounts, you are essentially pursuing a “buy and hold” strategy. But you can follow this same strategy for investments held outside your IRA and 401(k). You can own some investments – stocks in particular – for decades without paying taxes on gains. And when you do sell them, you’ll only be taxed at the long-term capital gains rate, which may well be less than your ordinary income tax rate. But if you’re frequently buying and selling investments you’ve held for one year or less, you could rack up some pretty big tax bills, because you’ll likely be taxed at your ordinary income tax rate.

Be prepared for unexpected taxes

Mutual fund managers are generally free to make whatever trades they choose. And when they do sell some investments, they can incur capital gains, which may be passed along to you. If this is a concern, you might look for funds that do less trading and bill themselves as tax efficient.

While taxes are one factor to consider when you invest, they should probably not be the driving force. You need to build a diversified portfolio that’s appropriate for your risk tolerance and time horizon. Not all the investments you select, and the moves you make with them, will necessarily be the most tax efficient, but by working with your financial and tax professionals, you can make choices that can help you move toward your long-term goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

It's almost turkey time



Mike Daniels and Pete Walker with lake trout from Wachusett this past Saturday

Cool mornings had kept many anglers off of the water last week, but those that braved the cool temperatures did very well catching trout at many of the stocked trout waters, including rivers and streams. Wachusett Reservoir opened this past Saturday with many anglers catching their limits of lake trout as one of this week's pictures show. Most Lake Trout caught were two to three pounds, but some were a bit more impressive. Anglers are encouraged to retain their limits of lake trout, because of their high population in Wachusett Reservoir! Some of the lakers had perch,



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
• • • • •
RALPH TRUE

bass, and other fish in their stomachs when cleaned, causing concern about their huge appetite that could have a negative effect on other fish species in the Reservoir. Wallum Lake opened this past Wednesday after a lot of confusion by Rhode Island's last-minute changes. The lake normally opens on the second Saturday of April each year, but because of the pandemic, Rhode Island decided to open the lake to fishing on April 7, this year. They were also not going to stock it with trout until a later date even though Mass. did a stocking prior to April 7. The Rhode Island Fish

& Wildlife reversed their plans late last week, and announced that they were indeed going to stock trout prior to April 7. Wallum Lake regulations apply to the lake under an agreement with Massachusetts! The daily limit is five trout per angler, and can be legally fished with a Rhode Island license or Rhode Island fishing license. Wild turkey hunting in Massachusetts is not far away. Zones 1-13 open to hunting this sharp-eyed bird, on April 24. Successful hunters need to get out early, and setup before daylight. Sitting in a ground blind that was often set up the day or two before opening day, will increase the hunter's odds of bagging a gobbler. Only tom birds (male) can be harvested during the spring hunting season. Sitting in a blind prior to daybreak offers the hunter the peaceful quiet start of the day. Watching numerous wild animals and birds can entertain the hunter as he waits patiently for the sound of female turkeys as they waken, and leave their roost. The sound of their wings flapping as they glide down to the ground, can get the hunters heart pounding with excitement. It is not long before the gobble of a tom turkey breaks the still morning air. They are next to fly down from there roost, often high from a big pine tree. Waiting patiently for the birds to make their way to a hunter's set of decoys can be frustrating, but patience often pays off. If the birds are silent for a few minutes, I often give a light call on my diaphragm turkey call. It often gets the attention of the tom bird and he will quickly reply with a gobble. He will soon come looking for your hen turkey call. Suddenly, the movement of a white and red head appears 40 or 50 yards away in thick cover. He is coming! A couple of calls on your turkey call has the big tom responding with a series of raspy gobbles. Time to get your gun in position for a shot. If you are in a ground blind movement to get ready for the shot is easy, but if you are sitting in camouflage on the ground, your movement of any kind could be noticed



Parker with a big rainbow out of west river.

by the turkeys keen eye sight, and the hunt will be over very quickly, as the bird heads into the opposite direction. Taking aim at the head of the turkey will often insure a quick kill. Carefully squeezing the trigger, the discharge of the shotgun echoes through the valley in the crisp morning air. The smell of gunpowder is also in the air, and if you made a good shot, your reward of a tom turkey lays motionless 20 or so yards from your blind. Your heart is still racing, and the excitement of the hunt still has an effect on your body. Time to exit the blind and rush over to the bird. Filling out your harvest report and permit and then attaching it to the bird should be done. Even the simple task of filling out your permit is often complicated by the adrenaline rush of shooting your bird. If you do not experience all of the above-mentioned reactions to your body, you should find another sport. Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Is it time to begin stepping into the light of normalcy?

What is your new normal? It's your choice. I think my life is forever changed, even though I'm not sure what that means. I believe the pandemic has had a profound and maybe permanent impact on my life. Around the time this shut down began, I received a serious health diagnosis. This one-two punch was powerful. In the beginning, we only left our home for doctor visits and groceries. For Christmas, our daughter signed us up for Instacart, a shopping home delivery service and I haven't been into a grocery store since Dec. 23. I wear a mask out of the house always and when I visit the hospital for chemo/immunotherapy treatment, I add a face shield. I wash my hands and never pass a hand sanitizer opportunity. When the pizza man comes, he leaves it on the porch, rings the doorbell and leaves. I realize my life has been

reduced to an exceedingly small size. Partly out of necessity. Partly from following the alleged science that seems to change before our very eyes ... and partly ... maybe mostly ... out of fear. I think many Americans are frightened because the available info changes within the moment and we really do not know what the healthy and safe protocols are. "Masks don't work" ... wait ... "Masks do work and are mandatory" ... wait ... "one mask doesn't work, so wear two" ... "After vaccination, masks won't be required" ... wait ... "Masks should be worn into 2022 and maybe beyond." Here's the real kicker ... "Follow the science!" ... wait ... But we've learned that we really have been ignoring the science when it comes to schools and the classroom. Instead, the teacher's unions are leading the way with no scientific basis at all. Who do we listen to? Who do we believe? Who



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

do we trust? No wonder so many are frightened. I believe most health officials and politicians continue to act on the best information they have. I'm not a conspiracy theorist and refuse to buy into that brand of anguish. Has the virus been politicized? Of course. It's an unfortunate part of our democratic system. I think most can see through and past it. Are we safe? Will we be again? Were we ever? I'm told that until we achieve eighty-percent herd immunity there are still risks, but again, I'm tired of living my life waiting for the next health directive. Arlene and I are vaccinated. It was an easy decision for us. Being vaccinated makes sense to us and

we are happy with our choice. I don't know what to say to the anti-vaccination crowd. I have two friends who are dead from Covid. One died early in the pandemic and one in February. It's real. It's not going away soon. We all must make our choices based upon our personal research, beliefs and needs. I'll encourage all to be vaccinated but will also respect your choice regardless. Do your research and take the proper precautions to protect you and others. The late, great Vince Lombardi said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all," and I think most of us are fatigued by this pandemic. Get out. Take a breath of fresh air. Do not be afraid. I do believe it's time to step out of the darkness of fear and into the light. For Arlene and me, it's time to take our lives back and we started by going grocery shopping and a visit to Staples. Small steps but positive steps towards normalcy.

I began by asking, "What is your new normal?" It's our choice to make. I'll wear a mask, but I'm not putting on a second. I'll social distance but I'm going to start living my life outside of our home. I can go into the store and pick up my groceries. I can greet friends. Maybe I'll bump fists for a while rather than shaking hands. I'll be cautious. I won't act stupidly or irresponsibly but I will no longer allow the fear to determine my actions nor rule my life. We have a finite number of minutes on this earth, and we plan on living them, unafraid and with family and friends. I encourage you to properly protect yourself and others, then do the same. Step out of the darkness of fear into the bright light of life. Walk in the sun. Say hi to your neighbors. Catch up with each other and once again, breathe in the fresh air of life. Hug your family. Eat in your favorite restaurant. See a

friend you have not seen in a year. Make up for lost time. When the nurse put that needle in my arm for the second vaccination, I felt like screaming "Freedom!" I felt like I was given my life back. Southwest Airlines has a tag line where there is a 'ding' and a flight attendant says, "Your free to move around the country." It's time. I hope to see you outside! Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Grow stevia – nature's sweetener

Sweeten your meals by growing your own sugar substitute in gardens or containers. Stevia is nature's own sweetener that can be snacked upon fresh or added to soups, sauces, or beverages. Wait for warm nights and the danger of frost to pass before planting stevia outdoors. It is a perennial in USDA zones 8 and warmer, but those gardening in colder areas must grow stevia like an annual. Start plants from seed, cuttings, or transplants. Seeds are difficult to find and even more difficult to sprout. Use this method if you like a gardening challenge. Reduce your effort and increase success by starting with transplants. Check garden centers and mail order catalogs for plants. Place Stevia plants 12 inches apart in full sun or light shade with moist well-drained soils. You will get the best growth and most leaves during the long warm days of summer. Incorporate a low nitrogen slow-release fertilizer in the soil or potting mix at planting. These provide small amounts of nutrients over a long period

of time. Make a second application midseason if needed. Water new plantings often enough to keep the roots and surrounding soil slightly moist. Gradually extend the time between watering. Thoroughly water whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and slightly moist. Spread a layer of evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic matter over the soil surface. Mulching helps conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil, reducing your time weeding and watering. Harvest leaves as needed for sweetening your dishes. Munching on a single leaf can help suppress a sweet craving. You may be able to pass on a candy bar and go for a healthier option. Wait for cool short days at the end of the growing season when the sweetness is most intense to make large harvests for drying. You can dry in a microwave, dehydrator, or a warm dark location in your home. Cut, bundle,



GARDEN MOMENTS
• • • • •
MELINDA MYERS

and hang stems upside down to air dry. Knock leaves off the stem and save the dried leaves in an airtight jar. Grind the leaves by hand or use a coffee grinder to crush the leaves and release the sweetness. Dried leaves stored in an airtight jar will last for several years. You can grow stevia indoors in a bright sunny window or under artificial lights. Purchase plants or start your own from cuttings. Check plants often and water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil is starting to dry. Fertilize with a dilute solution of any fertilizer labeled for use on indoor edible plants. Harvest the leaves as needed to sweeten your favorite dishes. Growing stevia indoors or out can add flavor to your beverages and meals and fun to your gardening experience. Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow



Melinda Myers
Stevia, nature's own sweetener, can be grown indoors or out as long as the plants receive proper care. Anything DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

QCC offers information session for Becker students

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College will host a virtual information session for Becker College students on

Thursday, April 8, 4 – 5 p.m. The session offers current Becker students information on how to transfer into QCC. Prospective Becker students are also invited to

join. QCC recently signed a transfer agreement and memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Becker College to assist current Becker students

in transferring into the College to continue their studies. The agreement is for all current Becker students in programs transferrable into QCC's comparable programs

that include:

- Associate Degree in Business Administration Transfer
- Associate Degree in Criminal Justice
- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education
- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education Birth – Eight Years Old (Evening Only)
- Associate Degree Nurse Education

“We will do everything we can to assist Becker students in navigating these uncharted waters. We are waiving our application fees for these students, and QCC/Becker transfer specialists will assist in providing them with the supports they need to succeed,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. “Starting in the fall, we are offering in-person classes, as well as three different types of remote learning modalities, designed to meet each student’s unique learning style.”

At QCC, students can attend for free by qualifying for financial aid, and the College has increased its financial support to students during the pandemic, with more

than \$3 million in emergency aid from federal, state and institutional funds. QCC’s Student Emergency Fund is also available to current students in significant hardship due to the pandemic, regardless of citizenship, residency or enrollment status.

Students can start at QCC then transfer their credits into a Bachelor degree program, through transfer agreements with a vast array of colleges and universities, saving them thousands.

“QCC has been a smarter option in higher education for so many in the region. We look forward to Becker students realizing the opportunities that are afforded to them here,” President Pedraja said.

Registration is required to attend the information session. For more information, and to register, visit <https://www.QCC.edu/becker>.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 69 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Auburn, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bradley P. Sjosten to National City Bank, said mortgage dated October 30, 2003, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 32119 at Page 150 and now held by 20 Cap Fund I LLC by virtue of an assignment from Trinity Financial Services, LLC, to 20 Cap Fund I, LLC, dated November 7, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61773, Page 175, previously assigned by US Mortgage Resolution LLC to Trinity Financial Services, LLC, by virtue of an assignment dated July 26, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61773, Page 173, previously assigned by PNC Bank, National Association, successor by merger to National City Bank, to US Mortgage Resolution LLC by virtue of an assignment dated October 24, 2018 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59673 at Page 223, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **April 19, 2021 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land in Auburn, with the building thereon, numbered 69 Bryn Mawr Avenue, bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof on the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue at the southwestwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Florence E. Solyte, which point is one hundred (100) feet southwestwesterly of a stone monument marking the intersection of the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue and the southerly line of Rock Avenue; THENCE by land of said Solyte southwesterly two hundred (200) feet to land now or formerly of Sarah P. Mitchell; THENCE southwestwesterly by land of said Mitchell, in a line parallel to the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue one hundred and twenty-one and fifty three hundredths (121.53) feet to land now or formerly of Joseph H. Whitaker; THENCE northwestwesterly by land now or formerly of said Whitaker two hundred (200) feet to the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue; THENCE northeasterly by the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue one hundred and twenty-one and sixty two hundredths (121.62) feet to the place of beginning.
Containing 24,136 square feet of land.
The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated 10/28/2003, and recorded in Book 32119 at Page 135 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all

liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for 20 Cap Fund I LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(860) 677-2868

March 26, 2021
April 2, 2021
April 9, 2021

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Laurie M. Levitre** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Weichert Financial Services dated August 24, 2007, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41705, Page 1, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated July 31, 2015, recorded in Book 54484, Page 218; said mortgage was then assigned to Chase Home Finance LLC by virtue of an assignment dated July 7, 2009, and recorded in Book 44627, Page 341; and further assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association by virtue of an assignment dated December 11, 2014, and recorded in Book 53858, Page 5; and further assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, As Owner Trustee on Behalf of CSMC 2018-RPL1 Trust by virtue of an assignment dated April 24, 2018, and recorded in Book 58704, Page 331; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 10:00 AM on **May 6, 2021**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 62 Federal Hill Road Unit # 62, Building #6 Village Green Condominium, Auburn, MA 01501. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:
Unit No. 62 in Building 6 (the "unit") in Village Green Condominium (the "condominium"), located on Federal Hill Road, Auburn, Massachusetts, and established by the grantors pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, by Master Deed dated September 14, 1984 and recorded on September 20, 1984 with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 8372, Page 6, (the "Master Deed"), which unit is shown on the floor plans filed simultaneously with said Master Deed and on the copy of the relevant portion of said floor plan recorded with Unit Deed at Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 8436, Page 261. The Unit is conveyed together

with: 1. An undivided 2.865 percent interest in the common areas and facilities (the "Common Elements") of the Condominium; 2. An easement for the continuance of all encroachments by the Unit on any adjoining Units or Common Elements now existing or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of the settling or shifting of the buildings, or as a result of repair or restoration of the buildings or of the Unit after damage by fire or other casualty, or by reason of alteration or repair to the Common Elements, all as set forth in said Master Deed; and 3. An easement in common with the owners of the other Units to use any pipes, wires, ducts, flues, conduits, public utility lines and other Common Elements located in any of the other Units or elsewhere on the Condominium property, and serving, and serving the Unit, all as set forth in said Master Deed. The Unit is conveyed subject to: 1. Easements in favor of adjoining Units and in favor of the Common Elements for the continuance of all encroachments of such adjoining Units or Common Elements on the Unit, now existing or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of settling or shifting of the buildings, or as a result of repair or restoration of the building or of any adjoining Unit or of the Common Elements after damage by fire or other casualty, or after a taking in condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of an alteration or repair to the Common Elements made as provided in the Master Deed. 2. Easements in favor of the other units to use the pipes, wires, ducts, flues, conduits, public utility lines and other Common Elements located in the Unit and serving such other Units. 3. The provisions of Chapter 183A, the Master Deed (including, without limitation, all matters set forth on Schedule A thereto), and floor plans of the Condominium recording simultaneously with and as part of the Master Deed, and the provisions of Village Green Condominium Trust and the by-laws of the Condominium contained therein, recorded with the mast Deed, as the same may be amended from time to time by instruments duly recorded, which provisions together with any amendments thereto, shall constitute covenants running with the land, and shall bind any person having at any time any interest or estate in the Unit, his family, servants and visitors, as though such provisions were recited and stipulated at length herein. The Unit is intended to be used only for residential purposes as provided in paragraph 6 of the Master Deed and is subject to further restrictions on use as set forth in paragraph 6 and 7 of the Master Deed. Being the same premises as conveyed by deed and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 41704, Page 393.
Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set

forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.
Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale-date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The premises is to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, leases, tenancies, and rights of possession, building and zoning laws, encumbrances, condominium liens, if any and all other claim in the nature of liens, if any there be.
In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder, providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorneys, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein. If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagee reserves the right to purchase the within described property at the amount bid by the second highest bidder. The foreclosure deed and the consideration paid by the successful bidder shall be held in escrow by DG&L, (hereinafter called the "Escrow Agent") until the deed shall be released from escrow to the successful bidder at the same time as the consideration is released to the Mortgagee, whereupon all obligations of the Escrow Agent shall be deemed to have been properly fulfilled and the Escrow Agent shall be discharged. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
Dated: March 18, 2021 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as owner Trustee on behalf of CSMC 2018-RPL1 Trust By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 55917 (LEVITRE)
April 9, 2021
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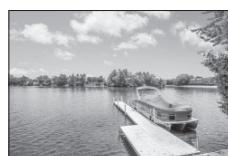


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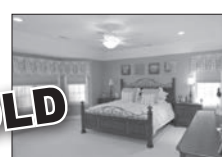


WEBSTER LAKE – 7 Cedar Drive! Middle Pond! 8 Rm English Tudor across the street from w/Direct Waterfront Lot – Full Lake Access! Offering the Option of an In-Law Apartment or Plenty of Room for Family & Friends! Entry Foyer enters from 3 Sides w/locked door access into the house, stairway to the lower level In-Law and the convenience of a Half Bath! The 1st Floor features Applianced Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Open Floor Plan – Frplcd Beamed Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm (Dining & Living Rms), Comfortable Bdrn & Hall Full Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs – the Spacious Master w/Master Bath & Slider to Lake View Deck! Additional Bdrn w/Built-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area w/Brick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrn! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot w/Deck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock! Take Advantage of the Low Interest Rates & make this House Your Home! Summer's Just Around the Corner! **\$489,900.00**

WEBSTER – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplce Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 AC, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

WEBSTER – 31 Park Street! 3 Family! 6/6/6 Rooms! 3/3/3 Bedrooms! 1/1/1 Bathrooms! Each Unit is nearly 1,300' Featuring Spacious Kitchens, Living Rooms & Frplcd Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! 10 Yrs Ago! Updated Electric! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Electric Heat! **\$284,900.00**

WEBSTER – 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/IsL, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**



WEBSTER – 69 Minebrook Rd! Conveniently Located 7 Rm Split Entry! 1.04 Acre Lot! House set well off the Road for added Privacy! Open Floor Plan! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Island & Seating, Tile Flr, Tile Backsplash & Ceiling Fan! Din Rm w/Hrwd Flrs & Slider to the Deck Overlooking the Private Backyard! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrwd Flr! Ideal for Entertaining! Down the Hrwd Hall find a Full Bath w/Tile Flr & 3 Bdrms w/Wall to Wall Carpeting! Master Bdrn w/2 Dble Closets, Ceiling Fan & Master Bath w/Marble Tile Flr & Shower Surround! Hrwd Stairs, the Finished Lower Level Fan Rm w/Recessed Lighting, Stone & Tile Hearth w/Woodstove, 1/2 Bath w/Tile Flr, Laundry Rm w/Sink & Tile Flr, Utility Rm w/Storage! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers & Door to Backyard! Oil Heat! Steel "T" Beam Construction! Shed! Won't Last!! **\$349,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond & Panoramic Views + Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Separate Showers & Whirlpool Tubs, 3 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrn, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrn w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**

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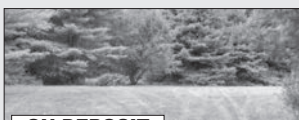
WEBSTER
99 UPPER GORE ROAD
Location! Scenic Upper Gore! "BIRDS EYE VIEW" of Webster Lake! Spacious Tr-Level, 2,279 sq. ft., 4 BRS, 1 full Bath, 2 half baths, Inground pool, 2 Car Garage **\$275,000.**



WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD
SORRY, SOLD!
Terrific opportunity for one Large business or Several businesses. 4784 sq bldg, Zoned B5. Off I395 exit 1. High Traffic & Visibility. Excellent Location! assisted sale **\$695,000.**

June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Brian Bohenko

WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD



ON DEPOSIT
5+ Acre Waterfront Land On "Little Pond/Schoolhouse Pond. Private Setting. Open Field. 250+ feet Waterfrontage. Dead end road!
\$179,900

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!
Estate Sale! Scenic View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Boarding Stone Walls! Split Level! 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Hollywood Bath! Master Bedroom & Master Bath. Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level w/1/2 Bath, Garage. "Salt Water" Inground Pool. **\$319,000.**

A SELLER'S MARKET

is continuing into year 2021!

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LAND

WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **ON DEPOSIT \$89,900**
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **SORRY, SOLD \$132,900**

WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE



Featured New Listing!

To Be Built or Build to Suit - 2000+ Sq Ft Custom Cape! 3 large bedrooms, Master suite, Central air, 2 Fireplaces! 2 car garage. All town services. **\$425,000.**

WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!
Beautiful CAPE! Enormous amount of updates. New Asphalt Shingles, & 8 New Skylights! 4 Bedrooms! 3 - 1/2 Baths! 24 x 26 Great Rm w/ Gas Fireplace! Master Suite w/"Spa Like" Bath & Soaking Tub! WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT? INGROUND POOL? OK! has that TOO! All Painted! SS Appliances. New Tankless Hot Water Boiler. **\$467,000**

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



Large 3 Family a rare find! Occupied by the owner for many decades. Entire 1st floor is one spacious apartment with 2 bedrooms. 2 - 2nd floor apartments have 3 bedrooms each. 30' x 44' beautiful Fieldstone Foundation, with walkout basement to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180' +/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining / formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing is Everything!** **\$1,075,000.**

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**

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MARCH'S SINGLE FAMILY HOMES REAL ESTATE MARKET

OXFORD

	March 2020	March 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$262,500	\$335,000	▲
Market Volume	\$1,692,400	\$3,787,000	▲
# of Homes Sold	7	11	▲
Avg Days on Market	44	21	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.01	.66	▼

AUBURN

	March 2020	March 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$274,000	\$357,100	▲
Market Volume	\$4,201,500	\$3,651,100	▼
# of Homes Sold	15	10	▼
Avg Days on Market	58	24	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.72	.33	▼

Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth! Inventory is extremely low!

Eve Patterson
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508-615-6149Doreen Gagliostro
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268 Dresser Hill Rd \$685,000

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4 Br., 2.5 baths, First floor family room
33 Latura St \$628,000

CALL Diane or Jo-Ann for a Real Estate Market Analysis





Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-8.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	5		8
3	0		11
7		6	17
11	9	16	

9	4	7
8	0	3
2	5	1
Solution		

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1865: GEN. ROBERT E. LEE SURRENDERS TO GEN. ULYSSES S. GRANT AT APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE.
- 1939: CONTRALTO MARIAN ANDERSON GIVES A CONCERT AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL.
- 1963: WINSTON CHURCHILL BECOMES THE FIRST HONORARY U.S. CITIZEN.



THIS OCCURS WHEN WATER DROPLETS CONDENSE ON ONE ANOTHER, CAUSING THEM TO GROW AND BECOME HEAVY.

ANSWER: RAIN

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

PRLIA WSRHSEO

Answer: April Showers



DOWNPOUR

heavy rainfall



ENGLISH: Rain

SPANISH: Lluvia

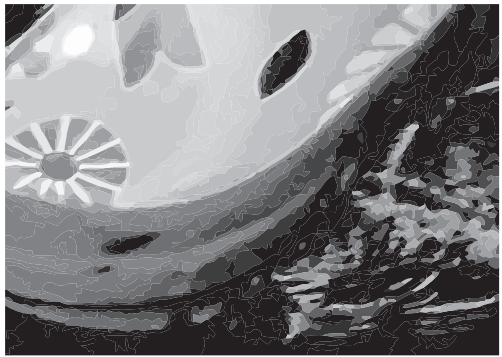
ITALIAN: Pioggia

FRENCH: Pluie

GERMAN: Regen



MAWSYNRAM, INDIA IS ONE OF THE WETTEST PLACES ON EARTH. THIS REGION RECEIVES THE HIGHEST RAINFALL IN INDIA. THE MAJORITY OF ITS RAIN FALLS DURING THE MONSOON SEASON.

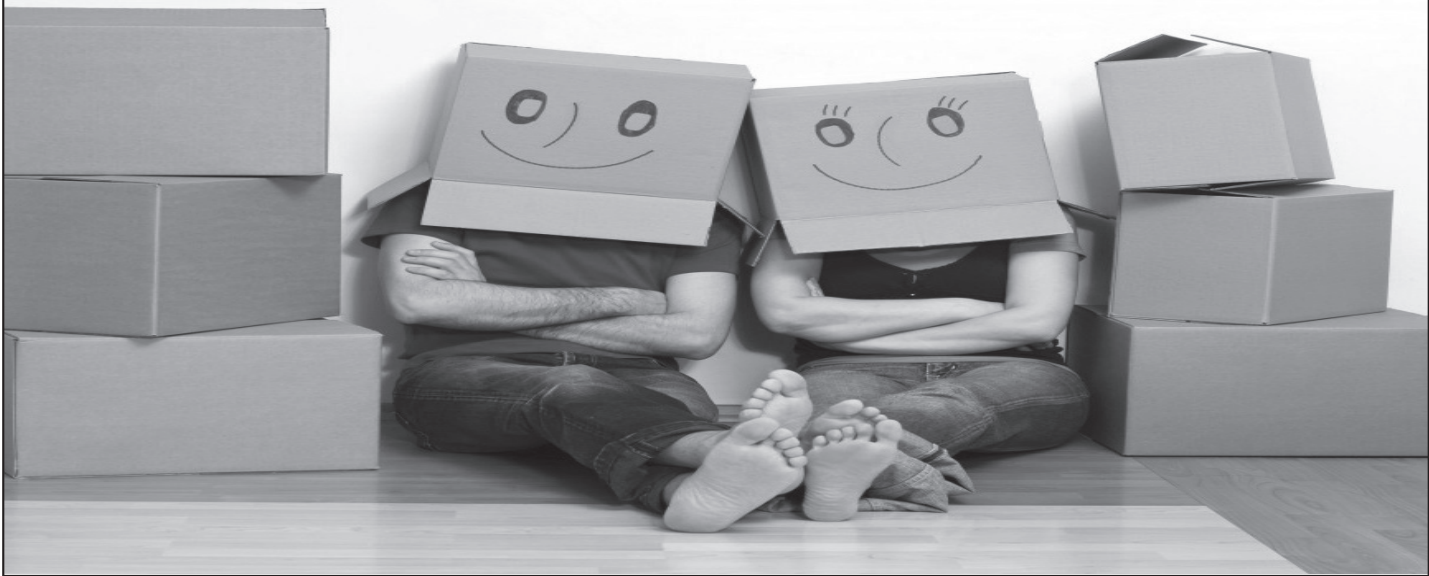


Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RAIN BOOTS



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NHS
continued from page A1

goods during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The concept was sparked by NHS Vice President and senior Cutter Beck, a longtime volunteer for CHIP In who said the NHS wanted to create a fun challenge that would get everyone beyond the walls of Shepherd Hill involved in the cause.

“We wanted something where we could get the whole district involved so we decided to do a drive, but there were a lot of food drives that had already gone on during the year. I work at the CHIP In food pantry in Charlton. I’ve worked there for about seven years as a volunteer. During Christmas times there’s usually a paper goods drive that happens and this year that didn’t happen, so they were really low on those items,” Beck said. “I thought we could do something for that and figured if we were going to encompass the whole dis-

trict, we decided to split it between the Webster-Dudley Food Share and CHIP In so that we could split the work across both communities.”

Around 4,000 paper goods were collected as a result which NHS President and senior Louisa Foisy says was an amazing effort by everyone involved.

“I think it was really special to see everybody in the NHS embrace this activity, making posters and making it heard around the schools that we were doing this. My English class alone collected over 2,000 items. It was just cool to see everybody get so excited about something that was going to help the communities. It created enthusiasm and it helped Chip-In and the Webster-Dudley Food Share,” Foisy said. “I think as the years go on the younger schools will get more involved and it will become a bigger and bigger event that will unify the district for a common cause.”

NHS advisor Corey Stefan said he was proud of the results and that the

students in the NHS make his job easy by taking initiative and showing the community that they’re here to help and be a part of the bigger picture.

“We wanted to try to build some kind of positive experience across the school district at a time where we’re seeking every unique opportunity possible to get any shred of hope and positivity to these students who need to look at school as not just a place that’s academically focus. It’s also about social and emotional trust, hope and support,” Stefan said.

As of this report a “winner” of the “battle” had not been determined, but in the end that wasn’t the point. It was never about winning. It was about bringing school community together towards a common goal and thanks to the efforts of the NHS and its countless student supporters families from throughout the district will now have access to resources to help keep them happy and healthy during these difficult and unsure times of COVID-19.

BECKER
continued from page A1

Information is also provided for student-athletes who must plan for the next chapters of their careers.

Looking ahead, Becker officials said decisions on the future of the college’s property and assets will be made in the coming months. Leicester officials are in the process of securing more information on the college’s impending closure, which will inform discussions over the summer.

“The town certainly has interest in obtaining the title to the Town Common, much of which is currently owned by Becker,” said Leicester Town Administrator David Genereux. “Beyond that, we have not had any discussions. I expect that they will take place in the coming months.”

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This is a part-time, 15 hour per week position with a salary range of \$20.50 to \$24.82 per hour.

Job description and town application available at: <https://www.spencerma.gov/home/pages/employment-opportunities>

Submit resume and standard town application to Town of Spencer, Town Administrator’s Office, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA EEO Employer.

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